

August 29, 2014

Weekly Views

Several Reception Diagnostic Center Trip Officers stepped up to participate in the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Ice Bucket Challenge. Trip Coordinator Sergeant Glover challenged his staff to participate, and several trip officers each braved a cooler of ice water and raised almost \$100 for ALS!

Eleven staff from Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge with the Logansport State Hospital. The group was doused with water from the Cass County Fire District 1 and their Ariel ladder Truck.

Putnamville Correctional Facility (ISF) was blessed with a visit from the Break Loose Outreach Softball Ministry! The organization is geared at ministry outreach, all while having fun with a friendly game of softball! The game was held between the Outreach team and an "All Star" team of offenders from ISF. The game ended with a quick sermon and prayer with the offenders. The outreach team travels to three states per year, this year hitting Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. The inmates won the game 21-18. Thank you to Program Coordinator Angela Taylor for helping organize this event!

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) held a special seminar in the Pam Cline Memorial Chapel. Approximately 120 offenders witnessed a 'Mind Empowerment' seminar presented by guest speaker Jeannine Sanderson. Jeannine Sanderson is a Board Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist.

Pendleton Correctional facility donated 160 lbs of produce to the Pendleton Methodist Church's Food Bank. Several gardens both inside the facility and outside grounds are tended by offenders to grow food for the local food bank and distributed to area residents.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility hosted a Job Fair, keeping three interview boards busy interviewing applicants most of the day. A whopping 48 area residents applied for 20 available Correctional Officer positions. Human Resources Generalist 1 Brittany Kirton said she was thrilled by the response. Once final selections are made classes for the new officers will begin at the maximum-security facility in early September.

The Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) hosted a Back-to-School Picnic for more than 50 children of 24 IREF resident fathers actively participating in the Family Education Department's Inside Out Dads program. The children enjoyed a picnic style lunch which included hot dogs, chips, punch, popcorn, and other treats. The IREF barbers were on hand to provide hair cuts to any child that had custodial parent permission. IREF presented each child with a backpack filled with ink pens, pencils, markers, crayons, calculators, notebooks, and other items.

Four Miami Correctional Facility custody staff were recognized with Commissioner's Coins from Commissioner Lemmon for assisting in a tragic fatal car accident near the facility. Commissioner came to the facility to show his appreciation for their bravery and willingness to act in a situation where many would keep driving by. Those recognized included: Officer Zachary Armfield, Officer Joseph Schlosser, Sergeant Larry King and Officer Michael Arthur. All offered first aid and assistance to law enforcement responding at the scene.

Robert Taylor from the Maintenance Department at Indiana State Prison was awarded a Commissioner's Coin by Commissioner Lemmon and Director of Construction Services Kevin Orme. The recognition was for his superior performance in returning the facility's Field House to operation following structural repairs. Taylor worked with Prison PEN Products to designed and fabricated brackets to be installed in the Recreation Field House to repair the structural damage. With his expertise, the brackets were installed in three weeks. This project could have taken a couple of years to complete with an outside contractor.

Madison Correctional Facility celebrated the retirements of three employees, Nancy Branstetter, Administrative Secretary; Joy Sedam, Correctional Training Officer and Lisa Dryden, Stores Clerk. These ladies will be greatly missed.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility celebrated the retirement of Accountant Monica Kozar for her 22 years of state service. Staff pitched in for pizza and a fruit tray that was enjoyed by all. Monica started her state service in 1992 at Edinburgh. In May 2002, she left the facility to work for the Family Social Services Administration. She returned to Edinburgh in March 2007 to finish out her career. Monica's experience and cheerful personality will truly be missed.

In recognition of 20 years of service as members of the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) E-Squad, Superintendent Dushan Zatecky presented Kenny Hysell and Louie Baker with plaques in appreciation for their continued service. "We are fortunate to have long standing members such as Kenny and Louie on our E-Squad. Their experience in various types of situations enhances the Squad's ability to lead and guide those with less experience during an incident," stated Superintendent Zatecky.

The Indiana State Prison held a reception honoring staff who were retiring from the prison. Cake was provided for the reception in the Indiana Room with Assistant Superintendent McBride giving a brief statement about how each person was going to be missed. Commission Lemmon gave a certificate and Commissioner's Coin to the retirees. The listing of retirees with their years of service are Sharon Weiler, (41), Lt. George Chism, (36), Donna Spencer-Cross, (28), James Brad Cox, (26), Officer Robb French, (26), Lt Clevon Ficklen, (24), Cindy Buchanan (24) and Dorothy Jones, (19) years of service.